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RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 1625
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 0875
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FOR NEA/ARP, INL/HSTC, G/TIP, AND DRL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [ELAB](#) [KU](#) [TIP](#)
SUBJECT: KUWAIT REQUESTS U.S. PARTICIPATION IN EXPATRIATE
LABOR CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 2006

REF: KUWAIT 1084

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for internet distribution.

¶1. (U) This is an action request. See paragraph 6.

¶2. (SBU) Amina Jowhar Ghazi (aka Amina Jowhar), Director of
the International Relations Department of the Ministry of
Social Affairs and Labor (MOSAL), faxed Post a copy of a
letter from the Undersecretary's office announcing MOSAL's
intention to hold an international conference on expatriate
labor in late 2006. MOSAL has asked for U.S. participation
in the conference and assistance in developing discussion and
workshop themes.

International Organizations to Participate in Conference

¶3. (SBU) The letter states that the conference will be
divided into two parts. The first will be headed by the UN
(Note: Post knows from other conversations that ILO, IOM, and
perhaps other organizations will also be involved. End
Note.) and will "seek to open a dialogue between sending and
receiving countries and to share experiences...with the goal
of reaching an agreement between the two sides on eliminating
the pending issues relating to the target group of workers,
i.e. those with low incomes, who are the most subject to
exploitation." The overriding conference goal is the
issuance of a "an announcement of principles in the name of
the State of Kuwait."

U.S.-led Workshops on Eliminating Expat Labor Problems

¶4. (SBU) The second part of the conference will consist of
"training workshops organized in cooperation with the
relevant agencies of the United States... in view of what has
appeared in the human rights reports of the U.S. State
Department, which always casts a light on labor in Kuwait."
According to Ghazi, the expansion of the conference to two
days is a result of recent Post meetings and pressure on TIP
issues.

Influencing the Direction of the Conference

15. (SBU) UNDP representative in Kuwait, Moez Doraid, told PolOff that the UN will be working on the concept paper to begin defining the conference outlines in the next two weeks. He promised to allow the United States to participate in the process. This is an extremely important opportunity to shape the conference so it is in line with U.S. interests on expatriate labor issues, including TIP. Doraid was especially keen on the conference producing a final statement or principles to which the GOK and other participating governments can be held. Therefore MOSAL's language to that extent is particularly significant. At the same time, the letter from MOSAL notes that it has decided to hold the conference "in the framework of Kuwait's efforts to show its positive, pioneering role in the field of protecting expatriate laborers." It is important that the conference not be used as an opportunity to whitewash the labor problems in Kuwait and other GCC countries.

Request for Input for Conference Preparation

16. (SBU) Action request: Post seeks Department input on what the U.S. can provide in terms of experts from government, academia, civil society, and the private sector who can address participants and/or run workshops. Post will try to be as involved as possible in the planning of the conference, but requires specific guidance about which agencies can participate, what topics should or should not be included, what kinds of workshops can be organized, how sending and receiving countries can become better integrated, and any other pertinent information. Doraid has said he

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wants to meet o/a April 10 to discuss the UNDP's concept paper, so Post requests Department input NLT April 7. Post also welcomes recommendations from info addressees for discussion topics and workshops.

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